

# **WORKSHOP**

## **2012 State and Federal Legislative Priorities**

**October 11, 2011  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Leon County Board of County Commissioner Chambers  
Leon County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**


**This document distributed: October 4, 2011**

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## Workshop Cover Sheet

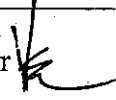
October 11, 2011

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**From:** Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 

**Title:** Workshop on the 2012 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

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<b>County Administrator Review and Approval:</b>	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 
<b>Department/Division Review and Approval:</b>	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator, County Administration Ken Morris, Director of Economic Development and Business Partnerships
<b>Lead Staff/ Project Team:</b>	Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator Cristina Paredes, Special Projects Coordinator

## **Executive Summary**

### **Issue Briefing:**

This workshop seeks Board consideration of the state and federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts for the 2012 state legislative session and the second session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Historically, the Board has conducted a workshop with staff on legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts. In recent years, staff has utilized this forum to receive Board direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal levels. Staff has identified five appropriation requests for the 2012 state and federal legislative cycles (please see Attachment #1). Additionally, staff has provided six substantive priorities for the 2012 state legislative session (Attachment #2) and two federal substantive priorities for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented here to be included in the County's 2012 State and Federal Legislative Programs. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

This item does not have a fiscal impact. However, it recommends projects for appropriation requests at the state and federal levels.

### **Staff Recommendations:**

Option #1: Approve the 2012 state and federal legislative priorities as presented.

## **Report and Discussion**

### **Background:**

Historically, the Board has conducted a workshop with staff on legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts. In recent years, staff has utilized this forum to receive Board direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level. During the Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, the Board directed staff to refine the County's substantive priorities to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and National Association of Counties (NACO) in achieving their broader substantive initiatives. Based on this direction from the Board, staff has provided eight substantive priorities (six state and two federal priorities) for the 2012 state and federal legislative sessions. Staff has also identified five appropriation requests for the 2012 state and federal legislative cycles.

### **Analysis:**

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented herein to be included in the County's 2012 State and Federal Legislative Programs. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2012. Staff would also like to welcome the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for the County's 2012 legislative efforts.

It is important to note that in addition to the specific Leon County issues identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative efforts each session are focused on statewide issues in conjunction with FAC. FAC will finalize their 2012 legislative program during their legislative conference on November 18, 2011. These issues are often times the most critical issues facing the County during the state legislative session. The Board will have an opportunity to communicate its legislative priorities when it hosts the Leon County Legislative Delegation meeting in the County Commission Chambers on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. It is important for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and working with the legislative delegation. Staff will continue to keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memorandum, "call to action" emails, and weekly *Capital Updates* throughout session.

The County utilizes contract lobbying services at the state and federal levels to further the County's legislative goals and in pursuit of appropriations for key local projects. The contract lobbying firms provide a daily presence by advocating the County's legislative priorities with the County's Delegation and legislative leaders. Given the state's financial hardship the past few years, the state lobbying team, Capitol Alliance Group, has concentrated on supporting the County's policy issues and protecting state programs that assist local governments. The Capitol Alliance Group was instrumental in identifying the appropriate economic development bill that would serve as a vehicle to include a temporary change to the QTI local funding formula. This change allows the local governments in the capital region a greater opportunity to utilize their economic development funds to recruit and expand businesses in their communities.

Since 2002, the federal lobbying team, Patton Boggs, has had significant success in obtaining federal appropriations for local projects to help offset the financial burden for local taxpayers. Patton Boggs' efforts have been vital in advocating the County's legislative priorities at the federal level where County staff has limited access. Additional information highlighting the activities of the federal lobbying team is available in the federal legislative issues section (Page #9).

Both the state and federal lobbying teams are under a three year contract with the County with an option for a two year extension. The County's contract with the Capitol Alliance Group has two years remaining and is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2013 unless the Board opts for the two year extension. The contract with Patton Boggs also has two years remaining and is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2013 unless the Board exercises its two year option. In both cases, the contracts are subject to an annual budget appropriation by the Board.

**PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2012 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

**Appropriation Requests**

*(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #2)*

The Board's practice of retaining professional contractual lobbying services, at both the state and federal levels, has been based primarily on increasing the County's chances of obtaining legislative appropriations. Staff works throughout the year to identify County projects for which to submit state and federal appropriations requests. In recent years, the Legislature has not accepted Community Budget Issue Requests (CBIRs), which serve as the primary vehicle for state appropriations, due to the state's severe budget constraints. However, a greater emphasis placed on grant programs through the executive branch and coordinating through state agencies helped fund a number of infrastructure projects during the previous session such as \$9.2 million for construction to widen Capital Circle at the intersection of Blountstown Highway. Although a small surplus is projected in state revenue, staff anticipates that the Legislature will not consider CBIRs in 2012.

Due to the continued revenue challenges at the state level, staff has refined the Board's top appropriation requests to avoid unrealistic expectations for securing funding for local projects. The 2012 appropriation requests identified herein include costly capital projects ranging from transportation projects to disaster recovery needs. In order to maximize the chances for state and federal funds, the County will seek to partner with the City on several projects important to the community including improvements to Capital Circle SW and the FAMU Dental School.

In previous years the County has had tremendous success in obtaining grants for its parks and library programs through the legislative appropriations process. However, in the two most recent sessions, the Legislature has failed to provide funding for the Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) and the Department of State's Public Library Construction Grant Program. Although the Department of State's Public Library Construction Grant Program had ranked the Eastside and Woodville Branch Libraries #5 and #19 respectively statewide, these projects are ineligible for FY 13 funding due to the recent completion of both projects (the grant program does not provide reimbursement for construction costs). The following is the proposed Leon County 2012 State and Federal appropriation requests:

<u>Disaster Relief Property Acquisition</u>	\$3.4 million
Acquisition of Flood-Prone Residential Properties	
<u>Capital Circle Southwest</u>	\$8 million
Construction of six-lane roadway (1,300 ft.) just north of Orange Ave.	
<u>Woodville Highway</u>	\$3.4 million
Design for widening (six lanes) from Capital Circle to Paul Russell Rd.	
<u>Woodville Sewer</u>	\$500,000
Design of Woodville Sewer System	
<u>EMS Equipment Grant</u>	\$721,980
Purchase of equipment for EMS	

**PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**Policy Requests**

*(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #3)*

The 2012 legislative session will begin much earlier than usual due to the Legislature's redistricting efforts. The 60-day legislative session will begin on January 10, 2012, and is scheduled to conclude on March 9, 2012. Like most legislation, much of the County's legislative efforts are incremental and focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or "substantive" legislative issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from the protection of the state workforce to the implementation of a statewide inspection program for septic tanks. The state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce state government are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. It will be important for the lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works daily with FAC and the Florida Association for Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) to identify developing issues that effect counties during the session's quick pace. In many cases, the County joins FAC and FAIR members to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties (*Please note: FAIR members are representatives of local governments from across the state.*) Please find below a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2012 state legislative session policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action:

**Protection of State Workforce**

**Issue:** State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

During the 2011 Session, the Legislature consolidated state agencies, eliminated 4,529 positions (including 300 layoff in the community), and reformed the Florida Retirement System to require 3% employee contributions to address the state's \$3.75 billion budget shortfall. During the upcoming session, the Legislature is expected to have further discussions on increasing employee contribution to FRS and state employee health insurance. There have been attempts in the past few sessions to cap the state's total spending on employee health insurance and in effect increase in health insurance premiums of state employees.

**Action:** Oppose any additional reductions to state employee benefits and encourage the Legislature to study the economic impact of FRS reform.

### **Statewide Septic Tank Inspection**

**Issue:** The 2010 Legislature established a statewide inspection program for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems that was to take effect on January 1, 2011. SB 550 (2010) required homeowners with septic tanks to have their systems evaluated every five years; however, it did not require the replacement or upgrade of failed septic systems to advanced or performance based systems. The program is to be administered by the Department of Health (DOH).

During the November 2010 special session, the Legislature delayed the implementation of the inspection program until July 1, 2011. The 2011 Legislature considered bills to nullify and/or significantly modify the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system evaluation program; however a bill was not passed. Instead, a provision was inserted into a budget conforming bill during the 2011 regular session that prohibits the Department of Health from starting inspections. Thus far, there have been three bills filed for the 2012 session that would eliminate the statewide inspection program.

**Action:** Monitor the state's implementation of the statewide septic tank inspection program and oppose any efforts to shift administrative duties to counties.

### **Firearm Preemption**

**Issue:** During the 2011 session, the Legislature approved a controversial gun bill that expanded the prohibitions on local governments to regulate guns to include regulations on the storage of guns, allowable and non-allowable areas to carry a firearm, noise ordinances, etc. The bill also established strict penalties should a local entity violate the preemption. Local and state government officials that violate the law could face a civil fine of up to \$5,000 and/or criminal penalties. Any laws, rules, or policies in violation of the prohibition would be cause for termination and/or removal from office by the Governor. Individuals and organizations that are impacted by prohibited laws, rules, or policies adopted by local governments and/or state agencies could sue for damages up to \$100,000.

**Action:** Support the repeal of HB 45 (2011), also known as the Firearm Preemption Bill, which penalizes local governments and local officials for exercising home rule.

### **Internet Cafes**

**Issue:** The proliferation of simulated gambling facilities, also known as "internet cafes" functioning as gaming parlors has raised many concerns about their operations and potential impact on communities. On June 14, 2011, the Board adopted an ordinance regulating internet cafes in Leon County.



Internet cafe legislation did not receive much consideration during the 2011 legislative session but separate bills were filed to regulate internet cafes or completely eliminate their existence. Representative Scott Plakon, an avid opponent of the internet cafes, has already filed a bill for the 2012 legislation session (HB 3) that would prohibit internet gaming establishments. Staff anticipates additional bills will be filed that would also preempt local government regulation of internet cafes. The County ordinance regulates the location and operation of simulated gambling facilities. However, the gaming devices utilized at the facilities are not regulated at the local or state level.

Action: Support legislation that maintains the County's home rule authority and provides for state inspection of gaming devices.

#### **FAMU Dental School**

Issue: Florida A&M University (FAMU) is seeking to establish a College of Dental Medicine to address the oral health care needs of Florida's rural and underserved communities. In April 2011, the Board adopted a Resolution supporting FAMU efforts to secure a \$1.5 million state appropriation for a dental school. FAMU is one of three public universities that recently made a proposal to establish or expand dental medicine education at its institution to the State University System's Board of Governors. In order to reinforce the County's commitment to the establishment of a College of Dental Medicine at FAMU, the Board adopted a second Resolution on September 13, 2011 urging the Board of Governors to approve the dental school. On September 30, 2011, FAMU announced that it was modifying its proposal in order to collaborate with University of Florida. UF is seeking to expand its dental program. The Board of Governors is expected to hold further discussions regarding a FAMU Dental School at its November meeting.

Action: Support Florida A&M University's effort to establish a Dental education program in Leon County.

#### **Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues**

Issue: FAC represents 67 counties before the Florida Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2005), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will finalize their 2012 legislative program during their legislative conference scheduled for November 18, 2011.

Action: Support the 2012 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with the County's priorities.

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

The Board's practice has been to focus the County's federal legislative program on appropriations issues but has added specific substantive issues from time to time. Most substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through the County's National Association of Counties (NACO) representation. At the Board's request, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriation requests (Page #5 of the Analysis Section).

Patton Boggs recently assisted the County in securing a \$2.1 million federal hardening grant for the public safety complex. The grant was initially awarded in February 2010 but the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) withheld the funds as agency reserves until Congress passed a continuing budget resolution to fund FEMA's operating costs. The Board accepted this \$2.1 million federal grant on February 8, 2011 with its approval of the quarterly grant leveraging report.

Patton Boggs has worked closely with staff on a select few federal policy issues and priorities that have been identified by the Board in the past year. Last month, Patton Boggs arranged a meeting between Commissioner Akinyemi and Leon County Federal Delegation to discuss legislation pertaining to the property accessed clean energy (PACE) program (locally referred to as the Leon Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which has pending legislation before Congress. Patton Boggs has also been instrumental in the County's efforts to utilize the Federal Correctional Institution open space area adjacent to Town Brown Park for Little League baseball fields. Patton Boggs coordinated a meeting between Commissioner Desloge and the FCI Warden to familiarize him with the County's proposal, seek FCI's support of the project, and assure him that the County and its lobbying team would take the lead in working with the Department of Justice. The lobbying firm will continue to assist with this request through the Department of Justice.

The County has also sought assistance from Patton Boggs to educate the Leon County Federal Delegation on the County's concerns regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit that was issued for the Grady County, Georgia Dam project and its impact on the water quality and quantity in North Florida. Subsequently, Congressman Southerland has become engaged in this issue and wrote a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expressing his concerns regarding the Grady County Dam project.

Staff has prepared two federal policy requests for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and to provide direction to the County's federal lobbying team (*for complete information, see Attachment #3*):

## **PACE**

**Issue:** In August 2010, the Federal Housing and Finance Agency (FHFA), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) expressed concerns because PACE financing takes a senior lien position in terms of property-based debt repayment obligations and asserted that these assessments make it harder to make repayments of those loans, and the risk cannot be supported by these entities. Therefore, FHFA directed Fannie/Freddie to take actions that they restrict mortgage lending opportunities and lower credit lines for homeowners who live in local governments that offer home energy retrofit programs such as Leon County. In July 2011, HR 2599 was filed entitled the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011 that would rescind the directives of FHFA. On August 23, 2011, the Board adopted a Resolution in support of the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011.

**Action:** Support federal legislation to negate or minimize the actions taken by FHFA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac and enact legislation to empower PACE programs.

## **Federal Correctional Institution Property**

**Issue:** On June 14, 2011, the Board authorized Commissioner Desloge to reach out to Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) for usage of open space adjacent to the FCI facility for Little League baseball fields. The open space is adjacent to Tom Brown Park. The initial response from the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicated that it did not have the authority to grant the County's request. On September 20, 2011, Commissioner Desloge and staff met with the FCI Warden Taylor to familiarize him with the County's proposal. At that time, the Warden Taylor agreed to support the County's to gain authorization for the use of the property.

**Action:** Continue to work with Patton Boggs to secure the usage of property at the Federal Correctional Institution facility for the purpose of constructing baseball fields.

Staff coordinates regularly with Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant opportunities that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, Patton Boggs has been submitting monthly memoranda to update the Board on their federal lobbying activities in order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm. It is important to note that the NACO Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 3-7, 2012 in Washington, D.C. In the past, Commissioners and County staff have used the NACO Legislative Conference as an opportunity to meet with the Leon County Federal Legislative Delegation to advocate for the County's federal priorities.

**Options:**

- 1) Approve the 2012 state and federal legislative priorities as presented.
- 2) Approve the 2012 state and federal legislative priorities as amended by the Board.
- 3) Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1.

**Attachments:**

- #1: 2012 State and Federal Legislative Session Appropriation Request Forms and Related Materials.
- #2: 2012 State Legislative Session Policy Request Related Materials.
- #3: 2012 Federal Policy Request and Related Materials.

## 2012 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: \_\_\_\_\_ State Appropriation:   X  

Department/Division: Grants

Contact: Don Lanham

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: lanhamd@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Disaster Recovery Enhancement Grant**

1. Project Description:

The Disaster Recovery Enhancement Grant would allow Leon County to acquire 19 flood prone residential units on Oakridge Road. The grant request is for \$3.4 million (if awarded 50% of the funds would have to be split with the City). The County would utilize approximately \$1.5 million to purchase the properties.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

In 2008, the County applied for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Grant through the Department of Community Affairs to address damage and undertake mitigation activities relating to damages caused by Tropical Storm Fay in the total amount of \$14 million. In 2009, the County was awarded \$10.1 million (50% had to be split with the City). The funding was utilized for infrastructure improvements of flooded areas and the acquisition of flooded residential properties. Although the residential units on Oakridge Road had been identified in the initial recovery grant, funding was exhausted before any of the properties on Oakridge Road could be acquired. The County recently applied for an additional \$3.4 million through the Disaster Recovery Enhance Grant program to acquire the flood-prone residential units in the Oakridge Road area.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Funding would be utilized to purchase flood prone residential units from low to moderate income residents of the Oakridge Road area.

4. Population Served:

The project would serve the Leon County residents living on Oakridge Road.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Acquisition of the properties would occur within 6-12 months once funding were available.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$3.4 million**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

## 2012 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:   X   State Appropriation:   X  

Department/Division:   Blueprint 2000  

Contact:   Wayne Tedder  

Phone:   219-1060   Fax:   219-1098   E-Mail:   wayne.tedder@talgov.com  

Project Title:   Capital Circle Southwest  

1. Project Description:

The project is to complete the widening of Capital Circle SW to six-lanes through Orange Avenue. During the 2011 session, the Legislature appropriated \$9.2 million for construction to widen Capital Circle at the intersection of Blountstown Highway. An additional \$8 million is required to construct a remaining 1,300 feet to Orange Avenue. The CCSW is an important junction in the efficiency of traffic movements along both roadway corridors.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Capital Circle is a major arterial roadway circling the Tallahassee urban area. It links a major expressway (Interstate 10) with US 27 and US 90, and US 319. Segments of Capital Circle have been widened with a significant portion of the improvements being either directly funded or advance-funded by the City of Tallahassee or Leon County. The project is a joint funded effort with Blueprint 2000 handling the design and construction and FDOT funding right-of-way costs. FDOT provided \$42 million for right-of-way costs.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Leon County and Tallahassee Commissions through their "Southern Strategy" are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern area of the County and City with a combination of roadway improvements, sector planning efforts, growth management and economic incentives. This project also provides a much needed connector between the Tallahassee Regional Airport and US 90 West which provides access to Interstate 10. This also serves as one of the primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle.

4. Population Served:

All regional coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project. The current Annual Average Daily Traffic count is 20,400 and is expected to increase to 40,900 by the year 2030.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Construction would commence once funding is available with a duration of 6-12 months.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$8 million**

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$8 million**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

## 2012 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:   X   State Appropriation:                     

Department/Division: CRTPA

Contact: Harry Reed

Phone: 891-6815 Fax: 891-6809 E-Mail: Harry.Reed@talgov.com

Project Title: Woodville Highway

1. Project Description:

This project is for the design of Woodville Highway to widen the existing two-lane segment to four lanes from Paul Russell Road to Capital Circle.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Woodville Highway connects to major arterials systems including Capital Circle and Monroe Street and serves as a major evacuation route from the Coastal Highway (US 98). This road is frequented by residents of Wakulla County that work in Leon County. It is anticipated that the volume of traffic will continue to increase as the Capital Circle Office Complex, which houses a number of state agencies, continues to expand.

During the FY 06/07 budget process the Board budgeted \$2.1 million for Woodville Highway. On September 18, 2007, the Board approved a Joint Project Agreement with FDOT to perform a PD&E study for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle. On March 11, 2008, the Board authorized the expenditures of funds up to \$175,000 to match funds from FDOT to perform a Corridor Master Plan for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Commerce Boulevard. On April 12, 2011, the Board amended its Agreement with FDOT for a PD&E study of Woodville Highway, from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle, to extend north to Paul Russell Road. Several reasons for the extension include adding sidewalks, designing pedestrian crossings, and to address any potential for redevelopment of the Leon County Fairgrounds which would have a significant impact on future traffic patterns.

CRTPA held a meeting last year with property owners and residents to kick-off a corridor study that will be utilized to develop the Corridor Master Plan. The final Corridor Master Plan is expected to be completed later this year. The PD&E study is fully funded and is expected to be completed in 2012.

At the completion of this project it is anticipated that there will be significant improvement in commuter access through southern Leon County and northern Wakulla County, improved freight movement from the coast and improved hurricane evacuation options.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Leon County and the City of Tallahassee through their joint “Southern Strategy” are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern area of the city/county with a combination of roadway improvements, sector planning efforts, growth management and economic incentives. Woodville Highway also serves as one of the primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle.

4. Population Served:

All regional coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project. The current Annual Average Daily Traffic count is 12,900. This road serves as one of two links to the coast via Wakulla County.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Due to the time necessary for the corridor study, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, construction commencement will be determined at a future date by FDOT.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$3.4 million for design**

State Funding Requested (as applicable):

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$2.1 million for PD&E and design**



## 2012 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:   X   State Appropriation:   X  

Department/Division: Public Works/Engineering Services

Contact: Tony Park

Phone: 606-1500 Fax: 606-1501 E-Mail: parkt@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Woodville Sewer Project

1. Project Description:

This project is for the design of a sewer system to provide sewer services to approximately 1,500 homes or properties located within the Woodville area of Leon County. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Providing sewer service will eliminate the need for septic tanks which, in the event of failure, can cause environmental concerns and impacts.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Leon County Comprehensive Plan provides that all waste water is to be treated and disposed of in a manner that protects natural resources and public health. (Note: The State of Florida has acquired more than half of the 6,500 acre buffer zone around Wakulla Springs acknowledging the importance of preserving this natural habitat).

4. Population Served:

Approximately 1,500 homes directly impacted in Leon County. Wakulla Springs is also home to a state park that has thousands of visitors each year.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

During the County's FY 07/08 budget workshop, the Board discontinued the funding of non-mandatory capital projects. A number of sewer projects were approved for discontinuation including the Woodville project. Due to the time necessary for the studies, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, construction may not commence for several years. However, during its April 12, 2011 Workshop on the Infrastructure Sales Tax Extension, Board identified the Woodville project for future discussion regarding funding.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design**

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

## 2012 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:   X   State Appropriation:           

Department/Division: Emergency Medical Services

Contact: Chief Tom Quillin/Mac Kemp

Phone:   606-2100   Fax:   606-2101   E-Mail: kemppm@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: EMS Equipment Grant

1. Project Description:  
The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighter Matching Grant would provide funding to purchase equipment for the Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:  
EMS' current cardiac monitors are scheduled for replacement. Grant funding would assist in the upgrade and/or purchase of cardiac monitors; 12-lead electrocardiogram; defibrillator; pacemaker; CO/CO2/O2 monitoring, non-invasive blood pressure monitor; and trending. This grant includes the replacement of the cardiac monitors provided to the City of Tallahassee Fire Department Advanced Life Support (ALS) units under the Fire Services / ALS Agreement.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:  
The Leon County EMS Division exists to provide clinically superior, compassionate, cost-effective emergency medical services to all citizens and visitors of Leon County.
4. Population Served:  
All Leon County residents, transients, and visitors.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:  
On August 23, 2011, the Board directed staff to submit an application for the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant. Should the County be awarded the grant, the necessary equipment upgrade would occur immediately.
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$721,980 for equipment purchase**  
State Funding Requested (as applicable):  
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$180,495**

**2012 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

Phone: 606-5300

Fax: 606-5301

E-Mail: paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Protection of State Workforce**

**Problem/Need**

State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

During the 2011 Session, the Legislature consolidated state agencies, eliminated 4,529 positions (including 300 layoff in the community), and reformed the Florida Retirement System to require 3% employee contributions to address the state's \$3.75 billion budget shortfall. During the upcoming session, the Legislature is expected to have further discussions on increasing employee contribution to FRS and the State Employee Health Insurance. There have been attempts in the past few sessions to cap the state's total spending on employee health insurance and in effect increase in health insurance premiums of state employees. State employees last received a raise in FY 2007, in the amount of 3%, followed by a one-time \$1,000 bonus in FY 2008.

**Recommended County Position. Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:**

Oppose any additional reductions to state employee benefits and encourage the Legislature to study the economic impact of FRS reform.

## **2012 State Legislative Session**

### **Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

Phone: 606-5300

Fax: 606-5301

E-Mail: paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Statewide Septic Tank Inspection**

Problem/Need:

The 2010 Legislature established a statewide inspection program for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems that was to take effect on January 1, 2011. SB 550 (2010) required homeowners with septic tanks to have their systems evaluated every five years; however, it did not require the replacement or upgrade of failed septic systems to advanced or performance based systems. The program is to be administered by the Department of Health (DOH).

During the November 2010 special session, the Legislature delayed the implementation of the inspection program until July 1, 2011. For a significant amount of time during the 2011 session, the Legislature considered bills either nullify or significantly modify the onsite sewage treatment and disposal system evaluation program; however a bill was not passed. Instead, a provision was inserted into a budget conforming bill during the 2011 regular session that prohibits Department of Health from starting inspections. Thus far, there have been three bills filed for the 2012 session that would eliminate the statewide inspection program.

Locally, citizens have expressed concerns about the cost and state-mandated inspection for those that do not meet the income guideline for financial assistance. The evaluation fee is set by Florida Statutes between \$15-\$30.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Monitor the state's implementation of the statewide septic tank inspection program and oppose any efforts to shift administrative duties to counties.

**2012 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

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Topic: **Firearm Preemption**

**Problem/Need:**

During the 2011 session, the Legislature approved a controversial gun bill that expanded the prohibitions on local governments to regulate guns to include regulations on the storage of guns, allowable and non-allowable areas to carry a firearm, noise ordinances, etc. The bill also established strict penalties should a local entity violate the preemption. Local and state government officials that violate the law could face a civil fine of up to \$5,000 and/or criminal penalties. Any laws, rules, or policies in violation of the prohibition would be cause for termination and/or removal from office by the Governor. Individuals and organizations that are impacted by prohibited laws, rules, or policies adopted by local governments and/or state agencies could sue for damages up to \$100,000.

Subsequent to the Legislature's approval of the bill and the Governor signature, the Board reluctantly amended County ordinances to comply with the new law at its June 14, 2011 Public Hearing. During the Public Hearing, the Board expressed an interest in filing a joint lawsuit with other local governments through FAC and the Florida League of Cities to challenge the new law.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:**

Support the repeal of HB 45 (2011) the Firearm Preemption Bill, which penalizes local governments and local officials for exercising home rule.

**2012 State Legislative Session**  
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

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Topic: Internet Cafes

Problem/Need:

The proliferation of simulated gambling facilities, also known as “internet cafes” functioning as gaming parlors has raised many concerns about their operations and potential impact on communities. On June 14, 2011, the Board adopted an ordinance regulating inter cafes in Leon County.

Internet cafe legislation did not receive much consideration during the 2011 legislative session but separate bills were filed to regulate internet cafes or completely eliminate their existence. Representative Scott Plakon, an avid opponent of the internet cafes, has already filed a bill for the 2012 legislation session (HB 3) that would prohibit internet gaming establishments. Staff anticipates additional bills will be filed that would also preempt local government regulation of internet cafes.

The County ordinance regulates the location and operation of simulated gambling facilities. However, the gaming devices utilized at the facilities are not regulated at the local or state level. Through the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Department of Business and Professional Regulations, the State oversees the inspection of numerous equipments and devices.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support legislation that maintains the County’s home rule authority and provides for state inspection of gaming devices.

**2012 State Legislative Session**  
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

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Topic: **FAMU Dental School**

Problem/Need:

Florida A&M University (FAMU) is seeking to establish a College of Dental Medicine to address the oral health care needs of Florida's rural and underserved communities. In April 2011, the Board adopted a Resolution supporting FAMU efforts to secure a \$1.5 million state appropriation for a dental school. FAMU is one of three public universities that recently made a proposal to establish or expand dental medicine education at its institution to the State University System's Board of Governors. In order to reinforce the County's commitment to the establishment of a College of Dental Medicine at FAMU, the Board adopted a second Resolution on September 13, 2011 urging the Board of Governors to approve the dental school. On September 30, 2011, FAMU announced that it was modifying its proposal in order to collaborate with University of Florida who is seeking to expand its dental program. The Board of Governors is expected to hold further discussion regarding a FAMU Dental School at its November meeting.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support Florida A&M University's effort to establish a Dental education program in Leon County.

**2012 State Legislative Session**  
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

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Topic: **Florida Association of Counties**

Problem/Need

FAC represents 67 counties before the Florida Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2005), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will finalize their 2012 legislative program during their legislative conference scheduled for November 16, 2011.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support the 2012 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.



## 2012 Federal Legislative Session

### Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: PACE

#### Problem/Need:

On April 22, 2010, the Board adopted an ordinance creating the Leon County Energy Improvement District, known as the Leon Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which provides for property accessed clean energy (PACE) and certain energy improvements and weatherization programs for both homes and businesses in Leon County.

In August 2010, the Federal Housing and Finance Agency (FHFA), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) expressed concerns because PACE financing takes a senior lien position in terms of property-based debt repayment obligations and asserted that these assessments make it harder to make repayments of those loans, and the risk cannot be supported by these entities. Therefore, FHFA directed Fannie/Freddie to take actions that they restrict mortgage lending opportunities and lower credit lines for homeowners who live in local governments that offer home energy retrofit programs such as Leon County.

Following FHFA's actions, HR 5766 was filed in the U.S. House of Representatives to prevent FHFA, Fannie, and Freddie from negatively impacting programs that meet certain guidelines that have been published by the Department of Energy. These guidelines were incorporated into the enabling ordinance when the Board established Leon County's program. However, no further action was taken on the bill.

On September 21, 2010 the Board directed the County Attorney to initiate litigation against FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The suit was filed on October 8, 2010. In July 2011, HR 2599 was filed entitled the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011 that would rescind the directives of FHFA. On August 23, 2011, the Board adopted a Resolution in support of the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011. On September 26, 2011, Commissioner Akin Akinyemi held meetings with the offices of Senator Rubio, U.S. Representative Southerland, and U.S. Representative Hayworth (sponsor of the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011) in Washington, D.C. to express Leon County's support for the PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011. The trial for the County's lawsuit against FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is scheduled for June 2012.

Recommended County Position. Recommended Change in Federal Statutes:

Support federal legislation to negate or minimize the actions taken by FHFA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac and enact legislation to empower PACE programs.

**2012 Federal Legislative Session**  
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Special Projects/Intergovernmental Affairs

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

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Topic: Use of Federal Correctional Institution Property

Problem/Need:

On June 14, 2011, the Board authorized Commissioner Desloge to reach out to Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) for usage of open space adjacent to the FCI facility for Little League baseball fields. The open space is adjacent to Tom Brown Park.

On July 29, 2011 Commissioner Desloge sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Prisons on behalf of the Board requesting the use of open space adjacent to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) facility for Little League baseball fields. The initial response from the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicated that it did not have the authority to grant the County's request. On September 20, 2011, Commissioner Desloge and staff met with the FCI Warden William Taylor to familiarize him with the County's proposal, seek FCI's support of the project, and assure him that the County and its lobbying team would take the lead in working with the Department of Justice. At that time, the Warden Taylor agreed to support the County's to gain authorization for the use of the property.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Federal Statutes:

Continue to work with Patton Boggs to secure the usage of property at the Federal Correctional Institution facility for the purpose of constructing baseball fields.